What is claimed is:

1. A method of printing characters, comprising the steps of:

defining a reference size and at least one predetermined enlarged size each corresponding to an integral multiple of said reference size, as alternatives to be selectively set to a print size of a printing area of a printing object on which is to be printed part or all of character groups including at least one character;

setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size;

allocating at least one predetermined portion different from one another of said character groups respectively to at least one divisional printing area formed by dividing said printing area by said reference size;

forming data of at least one print image corresponding to said at least one predetermined portion of said character groups allocated respectively to said at least one divisional printing area; and

printing said at least one print image respectively on said at least one divisional printing area of said printing object.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allocating said at least one predetermined portion includes the steps of:

determining whether or not said all of said character groups can be printed within said printing area having said print size; and

adding information characters implying the

incapability of printing said all of said character groups, to said part of said character groups.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein data of said character groups is stored in a disc, the method further including the step of reading said data of said character groups from said disc.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size include sizes of a plurality of kinds of labels.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said sizes of said plurality of kinds of labels include a size of a disc label to be attached to a surface of a disc cartridge, as said reference size, and a size of a case label to be attached to a surface of a case of said disc cartridge, as one of said at least one predetermined enlarged size.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the step of setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size includes selecting, from said alternatives, one corresponding to a size of a half-die-cut label, when said printing object is formed with said half-die-cut label.

8. A method according to claim 1, including the step of removably mounting one of a plurality of kinds of printing objects in a printing device, as said printing object.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size includes selecting, from said alternatives, one corresponding to

said one of said plurality of kinds of printing objects, when said print size varies with said kind of said printing object.

10. A method according to claim 9, further including the step of detecting said kind of said printing object mounted in said printing device,

wherein the step of setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size includes selecting, from said alternatives, one corresponding to the detected kind of said printing object.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size includes selection of one of said alternatives by the user.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said printing object is a tape.

13. A character printing device, comprising:

print size storage means for storing a reference size and at least one predetermined enlarged size each corresponding to an integral multiple of said reference size, defined as alternatives to be selectively set to a print size of a printing area of a printing object on which is to be printed part or all of character groups including at least one character;

print size-setting means for setting one of said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size to said print size;

allocation means for allocating at least one predetermined portion different from one another of said character groups respectively to at least one divisional printing area formed by dividing said printing area by said

reference size;

print image data-forming means for forming data of at least one print image corresponding to said at least one predetermined portion of said character groups allocated respectively to said at least one divisional printing area; and

printing means for printing said at least one print image respectively on said at least one divisional printing area of said printing object.

14. A character printing device according to claim 13, wherein said allocation means includes:

determining means for determining whether or not said all of said character groups can be printed within said printing area having said print size; and

information character-adding means for adding information characters implying the incapability of printing said all of said character groups, to said part of said character groups.

15. A character printing device according to claim 13, wherein data of said character groups is stored in a disc, the character printing device further including reading means for reading said data of said character groups from said disc.

16. A character printing device according to claim 15, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

17. A character printing device according to claim 15, wherein said reference size and said at least one predetermined enlarged size include sizes of a plurality of kinds of labels.

18. A character printing device according to claim 17, wherein said sizes of said plurality of kinds of labels

include a size of a disc label to be attached to a surface of a disc cartridge, as said reference size, and a size of a case label to be attached to a surface of a case of said disc cartridge, as one of said at least one predetermined enlarged size.

19. A character printing device according to claim 17, wherein said print size-setting means selects, from said alternatives, one corresponding to a size of a half-die-cut label, when said printing object is formed with said half-die-cut label.

20. A character printing device according to claim 15, wherein said reading means includes disc playback means for reading said data of said character groups from said disc.

21. A character printing device according to claim 20, wherein said disc playback means is constructed such that said disc playback means receives a request signal generated in response to a key operation of a remote controller from said remote controller, and transmits a portion of character groups to be displayed on a display of said remote controller to said remote controller, said portion corresponding to said request signal, and

wherein said reading means further includes remote-controlled communication means for sending said request signal and receiving said portion of said character groups in place of said remote controller.

22. A character printing device according to claim 13, further including mounting means for removably mounting one of a plurality of kinds of printing objects, as said printing object.

23. A character printing device according to claim

22, wherein said print size-setting means selects, from said alternatives, one corresponding to said one of said plurality of kinds of printing objects, when said print size varies with said kind of said printing object.

24. A character printing device according to claim 23, further including detecting means for detecting said kind of said printing object mounted in said printing device,

wherein said print size-setting means selects, from said alternatives, one corresponding to the detected kind of said printing object.

25. A character printing device according to claim 13, wherein said print size-setting means selects said one of said alternatives in response to an operation carried out by the user.

26. A character printing device according to claim 13, wherein said printing object is a tape.

27. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

forming, with reference to a post-omission character count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of characters of a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of at least one character from each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said

predetermined number of characters, at least one elided character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string by omitting an excess of characters over said post-omission character count from said each basic character string;

forming at least one elided basic character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string, by adding said character omission-notifying character string to each corresponding one of said at least one elided character string which corresponds to said each basic character string; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of each of said at least one elided basic character string to image data thereof, based on a predetermined font, and arranging said image data of said each of said at least one elided basic character string in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

28. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

forming, with reference to a post-omission character count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of characters of a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of at least one character from each basic character string

determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, image data of at least one elided character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string and formed by omitting an excess of characters over said post-omission character count from said each basic character string, by converting text data of each of said at least one elided character string to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said each of said at least one elided character string in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said character omission-notifying character string to image data thereof based on said predetermined font, and arranging said image data of said character omission-notifying character string in said predetermined image-forming memory area, such that said image data of said character omission-notifying character string is added to said image data of said at least one elided character string.

29. A method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said character omission-notifying character string includes at least one of characters "...", "...", "..", and "~".

30. A method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said text data of said at least one basic character string is stored in a disc, the method further including the step of reading said text data of said at least one basic character string from said disc.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein said disc

is a mini disc.

32. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not any of at least one basic character string each including at least one character has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters; and

forming, based on a predetermined font, data of an elided image by converting text data of new at least one basic character string formed by omitting a portion from each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of said characters and at the same time adding a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of said portion thereto, to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said new at least one basic character string in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

33. A method according to any one of claims 27, 28, or 32, further including the steps of:

carrying out any of edit operations including character insertion, character deletion, character conversion, character size setting, and character decoration setting, on any of said at least one basic character string; and

as a result of said any of said edit operations, if said predetermined number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area has changed in number, forming said data of said elided image with reference to the resulting number of characters

which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area.

34. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters;

forming, when it is determined that said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number said predetermined number of lines of characters, with reference to a post-omission line count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of lines of a line omission-notifying character string implying omission of at least one line from said plurality of lines, elided basic character strings as new basic character strings, by omitting an excess of lines over said post-omission line count from said basic character strings, and adding said line omission-notifying character string to remaining lines of said basic character strings; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said elided basic character strings to image data thereof based on a predetermined font and arranging said image data of said elided basic character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged.

35. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of basic character strings forming

a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters;

forming, when it is determined that said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number said predetermined number of lines of characters, with reference to a post-omission line count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of lines of a line omission-notifying character string implying omission of at least one line from said plurality of lines, image data of elided character strings formed by omitting an excess of lines over said post-omission line count from said basic character strings, by converting text data of each of said elided character strings to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said each of said elided character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said line omission-notifying character string to image data thereof based on said predetermined font, and arranging said image data of said line omission-notifying character string in said predetermined image-forming memory area, such that said image data of said line omission-notifying character string is added to said image data of said elided character strings.

36. A method according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said text data of said basic character strings is stored in a disc, the method including the step of reading said text data of said basic character strings from said disc.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

38. A method according to claim 36, wherein said basic character strings include a plurality of titles of music pieces,

the method including the step of causing at least one character indicative of the number of music pieces stored in said disc or the number of titles omitted from said titles of said music pieces to be included in said line omission-notifying character string, when lines omitted from said plurality of lines of said basic character strings include at least one of said plurality of titles of said music pieces.

39. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters; and

forming, based on a predetermined font, data of an elided image by converting text data of new basic character strings formed by omitting ones of said basic character strings and at the same time adding a line omission-notifying character string implying the omission of said ones of said basic character strings to the resulting basic character strings, to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said new basic character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged.

40. A method according to any of claims 27, 28, 34, or 35, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

41. A method according to claim 40, wherein said printing object is a tape.

42. A method according to any of claims 27, 28, 34, or 35, wherein said elided image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

43. An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

elided character string-forming means for forming, with reference to a post-omission character count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of characters of a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of at least one character from each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, at least one elided character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string by omitting an excess of characters over said post-omission character count from said each basic character string;

elided basic character string-forming means for forming at least one elided basic character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string, by adding said character omission-

notifying character string to each corresponding one of said at least one elided character string which corresponds to said each basic character string; and

elided image data-forming means for forming data of an elided image by converting text data of each of said at least one elided basic character string to image data thereof, based on a predetermined font, and arranging said image data of said each of said at least one elided basic character string in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

44. An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

elided character string image data-forming means for forming, with reference to a post-omission character count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of characters of a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of at least one character from each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, image data of at least one elided character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string and formed by omitting an excess of characters over said post-omission character count from said each basic character string, by converting text data of each of said at least one elided character string to image

data thereof, and arranging said image data of said each
of said at least one elided character string in a
predetermined image-forming memory area within which image
data of said predetermined number of characters can be
arranged; and

elided image data forming means for forming data of
an elided image by converting text data of said character
omission-notifying character string to image data thereof
based on said predetermined font, and arranging said image
data of said character omission-notifying character string
in said predetermined image-forming memory area, such that
said image data of said character omission-notifying
character string is added to said image data of said at least
one elided character string.

45. An image forming device according to claim 43
or 44, wherein said character omission-notifying character
string includes at least one of characters "···", "···", " · ",
and "∼".

46. An image forming device according to claim 43
or 44, wherein said text data of said at least one basic
character string is stored in a disc, the image forming
device further including reading means for reading said
text data of said at least one basic character string from
said disc.

47. An image forming device according to claim 46,
wherein said disc is a mini disc.

48. An image forming device according to claim 46,
wherein said reading means includes disc playback means for
reading said text data of said at least one basic character
string from said disc.

49. An image forming device comprising:

determining means for determining whether or not any of at least one basic character string each including at least one character has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters; and

elided image data-forming means for forming, based on a predetermined font, data of an elided image by converting text data of new at least one basic character string formed by omitting a portion from each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined character number and at the same time adding a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of said portion thereto, to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said new at least one basic character string in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

50.   An image forming device according to any one of claims 43, 44, or 49, further including:

edit means for carrying out any of edit operations including character insertion, character deletion, character conversion, character size setting, and character decoration setting, on any of said at least one basic character string; and

character number-updating means for, as a result of said any of said edit operations, if said predetermined number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area has changed in number, updating said predetermined number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area to a number resulting from the change.

51.   An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters;

elided character string-forming means for forming, when it is determined that said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number said predetermined number of lines of characters, with reference to a post-omission line count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of lines of a line omission-notifying character string implying omission of at least one line from said plurality of lines, elided basic character strings as new basic character strings, by omitting an excess of lines over said post-omission line count from said basic character strings, and adding said line omission-notifying character string to remaining lines of said basic character strings; and

elided image data-forming means for forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said elided basic character strings to image data thereof based on a predetermined font and arranging said image data of said elided basic character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged.

52. An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters;

elided character string image data-forming means for forming, when it is determined that said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number said predetermined number of lines of characters, with reference to a post-omission line count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of lines of a line omission-notifying character string implying omission of at least one line from said plurality of lines, image data of elided character strings formed by omitting an excess of lines over said post-omission line count from said basic character strings, by converting text data of each of said elided character strings to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said each of said elided character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged; and

elided image data-forming means for forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said line omission-notifying character string to image data thereof based on said predetermined font, and arranging said image data of said line omission-notifying character string in said predetermined image-forming memory area, such that said image data of said line omission-notifying character string is added to said image data of said elided character strings.

53. An image forming device according to claim 51 or 52, wherein said text data of said basic character strings is stored in a disc, the image forming device

including reading means for reading said text data of said basic character strings from said disc.

54. An image forming device according to claim 53, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

55. An image forming device according to claim 53, wherein said basic character strings include a plurality of titles of music pieces,

the image forming device including means for causing at least one character indicative of the number of music pieces stored in said disc or the number of titles omitted from said titles of said music pieces to be included in said line omission-notifying character string, when lines omitted from said plurality of lines of said basic character strings include at least one of said plurality of titles of said music pieces.

56. An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not said plurality of lines of said basic character strings exceed in number a predetermined number of lines of characters; and

elided image data-forming means for forming, based on a predetermined font, data of an elided image by converting text data of new basic character strings formed by omitting ones of said basic character strings and at the same time adding a line omission-notifying character string implying the omission of said ones of said basic character strings to the resulting basic character strings, to image data thereof, and arranging said image data of said new

basic character strings in a predetermined image-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of lines of characters can be arranged.

57. An image forming device according to any of claims 43, 44, 49, 51, 52 or 56, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

58. An image forming device according to claim 57, wherein said printing object is a tape.

59. An image forming device according to any of claims 43, 44, 49, 51, 52 or 56, wherein said elided image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

60. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

defining a reference line count and one or more n-th predetermined line counts each corresponding to a number which is n times as large as said reference line count (n represents a natural number), with reference to which text data of part or all of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character is converted based on a predetermined font to image data of said part or all of said basic character strings and said image data is arranged in an edit image-forming memory area;

storing text data of said basic character strings;

determining whether or not the number of lines of said basic character strings to be formed when said text data of said basic character strings is converted to image data thereof and said image data of said basic character strings is arranged in said edit image-forming memory area exceeds in number any of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts;

forming edit information character strings, with

reference to an n-th post-omission line count calculated by subtracting the number of lines of an n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of lines from each n-th predetermined line count which the number of lines of said basic character strings is determined to exceed, by inserting an n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string indicative of an excess in line count over said each n-th predetermined line count between an end of a line of said basic character strings immediately before the count of lines of said basic character strings exceeds said n-th post-omission line count and a head of the following line; and

forming data of an edit information image by converting text data of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said edit information character strings in an edit information image-forming memory area.

61. A method according to claim 60, wherein said one or more n-th predetermined line counts comprise a plurality of line counts defined by different values of said n, and

wherein the number of lines of said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string is identical for all of said plurality of line counts of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts.

62. A method according to claim 60, including the steps of:

setting one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts to a predetermined line count with reference to which text data of said basic character strings is converted to image data thereof for arrangement in said edit image-forming memory area;

forming elided character strings by omitting lines of said edit information character strings after said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string for the set one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts;

forming elided basic character strings in which said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string for the set one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts is added to said elided character strings; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said elided basic character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said elided basic character strings in said edit image-forming memory area.

63. A method according to claim 62, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

64. A method according to claim 63, wherein said printing object is a tape.

65. A method according to claim 62, wherein said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string is formed by an identical character string for all of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts.

66. A method according to claim 65, wherein a predetermined serial number is defined to indicate information of each of said basic character strings, and said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string indicates the number of all pieces of information of said basic character strings.

67. A method according to claim 60, wherein said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string for said one or more n-th predetermined line counts is formed

by a different character string for a different value of said n.

68. A method according to claim 67, wherein a predetermined serial number is defined to indicate information of each of said basic character strings, and said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string indicates the number of omitted pieces of information of said basic character strings.

69. A method according to claim 60, wherein said edit information image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

70. A method according to claim 60, wherein said edit information character strings correspond respectively to said basic character strings, and

wherein the step of forming said data of said edit information image includes converting text data of each of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said each of said edit information character strings in said edit information image-forming memory area such that an image of said each of said edit information character strings forms an image of one line of a character string.

71. A method according to claim 60, wherein said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string includes a symbol easily discriminated from other characters.

72. A method according to claim 60, wherein said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string includes at least one character indicative of a number represented by said n.

73. A method according to claim 60, wherein said data

of said edit information image is formed by converting text data of only a required range of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said required range of said edit information character strings in said edit information image-forming memory area.

74. A method according to claim 60, wherein said text data of said basic image character strings is stored in a disc, the method including the step of reading said text data of said basic character strings from said disc.

75. A method according to claim 74, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

76. An image forming device comprising:

predetermined line count-defining means for defining a reference line count and one or more n-th predetermined line counts each corresponding to a number which is n times as large as said reference line count (n represents a natural number), with reference to which text data of part or all of basic character strings forming a plurality of lines each including at least one character is converted based on a predetermined font to image data of said part or all of said basic character strings and said image data is arranged in an edit image-forming memory area;

storage means for storing text data of said basic character strings;

determining means for determining whether or not the number of lines of said basic character strings to be formed when said text data of said basic character strings is converted to image data thereof and said image data of said basic character strings is arranged in said edit image-forming memory area exceeds in number any of said one or

more n-th predetermined line counts;

edit information character string-forming means for forming edit information character strings, with reference to an n-th post-omission line count calculated by subtracting the number of lines of an n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of lines from each n-th predetermined line count which the number of lines of said basic character strings is determined to exceed, by inserting an n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string indicative of an excess in line count over said each n-th predetermined line count between an end of a line of said basic character strings immediately before the count of lines of said basic character strings exceeds said n-th post-omission line count and a head of the following line; and

edit information image data-forming means for forming data of an edit information image by converting text data of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said edit information character strings in an edit information image-forming memory area.

77. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said one or more n-th predetermined line counts comprise a plurality of line counts defined by different values of said n, and

wherein the number of lines of said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string is identical for all of said plurality of line counts of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts.

78. An image forming device according to claim 76, including:

predetermined line count-setting means for setting one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts to a predetermined line count with reference to which text data of said basic character strings is converted to image data thereof for arrangement in said edit image-forming memory area;

elided character string-forming means for forming elided character strings by omitting lines of said edit information character strings after said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string for the set one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts;

elided basic character string-forming means for forming elided basic character strings in which said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string for the set one of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts is added to said elided character strings; and

elided image data-forming means for forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said elided basic character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said elided basic character strings in said edit image-forming memory area.

79. An image forming device according to claim 78, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

80. An image forming device according to claim 79, wherein said printing object is a tape.

81. An image forming device according to claim 78, wherein said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string is formed by an identical character string for all of said one or more n-th predetermined line counts.

82. An image forming device according to claim 81, wherein a predetermined serial number is defined to indicate information of each of said basic character strings, and said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string indicates the number of all pieces of information of said basic character strings.

83. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string for said one or more n-th predetermined line counts is formed by a different character string for a different value of said n.

84. An image forming device according to claim 83, wherein a predetermined serial number is defined to indicate information of each of said basic character strings, and said n-th predetermined line omission-notifying character string indicates the number of omitted pieces of information of said basic character strings.

85. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said edit information image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

86. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said edit information character strings correspond respectively to said basic character strings, and

wherein said edit information image-forming means converts text data of each of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranges said image data of said each of said edit information character strings in said edit information image-forming memory area such that an image of said each of said edit information character strings forms an image of one line of a character string.

87. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string includes a symbol easily discriminated from other characters.

88. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said n-th predetermined line overflow-notifying character string includes at least one character indicative of a number represented by said n.

89. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said data of said edit information image is formed by converting text data of only a required range of said edit information character strings to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said required range of said edit information character strings in said edit information image-forming memory area.

90. An image forming device according to claim 76, wherein said text data of said basic image character strings is stored in a disc, the image forming device includes reading means for reading said text data of said basic character strings from said disc.

91. An image forming device according to claim 90, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

92. An image forming device according to claim 90, wherein said reading means includes disc playback means for reading said text data of said basic character strings from said disc.

93. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

forming at least one edit information character string corresponding respectively to said at least one basic character string, by inserting a character overflow-notifying character string indicative of an excess in character count over said predetermined number and including at least one predetermined character, between a character immediately before a point at which the count of characters exceeds said predetermined number and a character immediately after said point, in each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters; and

forming data of an edit information image by converting text data of said at least one edit information character string to image data thereof based on a predetermined font and arranging said image data of said at least one edit information character string in an edit information image data-forming memory area.

94. A method according to claim 93, including the steps of setting one of a new line-on format for forming an image of an excess of characters over said predetermined number of characters of said each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters as an image of the following line, and a new line-off format for omitting said image of said excess of characters of said each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, and

wherein the step of forming said at least one edit

information character string includes inserting said character overflow-notifying character string, with reference to a post-omission character count calculated by subtracting from said predetermined number the number of characters of a character omission-notifying character string for notifying omission of at least one character, instead of referring to said predetermined number, in said each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, if said new line-off format has been set.

95. A method according to claim 94, the method including the steps of:

forming at least one elided character string formed by omitting said character overflow-notifying character string and the following portion of each edit information character string corresponding to said each basic character string determined to have characters in excess of said predetermined number of characters, if said new line-off format has been set;

forming at least one elided basic character string corresponding respectively to said at least one elided character string by adding said character omission-notifying character string to a portion of said each edit information character string from which said character overflow-notifying character string and the following portion are omitted; and

forming data of an elided image by converting text data of said at least one elided character string to image data thereof based on a predetermined font and arranging said image data of said at least one elided basic character string in a predetermined edit image data-forming memory

area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

96. A method according to claim 95, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

97. A method according to claim 96, wherein said printing object is a tape.

98. A method according to claim 95, further including the steps of:

carrying out any of edit operations including character insertion, character deletion, character conversion, character size setting, and character decoration setting, on any of said at least one basic character string; and

as a result of said any of said edit operations, if said predetermined number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area has changed in number, forming said data of said elided image with reference to the resulting number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined edit image data-forming memory area.

99. A method according to claim 94 wherein said character omission-notifying character string includes at least one of characters "....", "...", " . ", and "~".

100. A method according to claim 93, wherein said edit information image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

101. A method according to claim 93, wherein the step of forming said data of said edit information image includes converting text data of said each of said at least one edit information character string to image data thereof and

arranging said image data of said each of said at least one edit information character string in said edit information image data-forming memory area such that an image of said each of said at least one edit information character string forms an image of one line of a character string.

102. A method according to claim 93, wherein said character overflow-notifying character string includes a symbol easily discriminated from other characters.

103. A method according to claim 93, wherein the step of forming said data of said edit information image includes converting text data of only a required range of said at least one edit information character string to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said required range of said at least one edit information character string in said edit information image data-forming memory area.

104. A method according to claim 93, wherein said text data of said at least one basic image character string is stored in a disc, the method including the step of reading said text data of said at least one basic character string from said disc.

105. A method according to claim 104, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

106. An image forming device comprising:

storage means for storing text data of at least one basic character string forming at least one line each including at least one character;

determining means for determining whether or not any of said at least one basic character string has characters in excess of a predetermined number of characters;

edit information character string-forming means for forming at least one edit information character string

corresponding respectively to said at least one basic
character string, by inserting a character overflow-
notifying character string indicative of an excess in
character count over said predetermined number of
characters and including at least one predetermined
character, between a character immediately before a point
at which the count of characters exceeds said predetermined
number of characters and a character immediately after said
point, in each basic character string determined to have
characters in excess of said predetermined number of
characters; and

edit information image data-forming means for
forming data of an edit information image by converting text
data of said at least one edit information character string
to image data thereof based on a predetermined font and
arranging said image data of said at least one edit
information character string in an edit information image
data-forming memory area.

107. An image forming device according to claim 106,
including new line-on/off-setting means for setting one of
a new line-on format for forming an image of an excess of
characters over said predetermined number of characters of
said each basic character string determined to have
characters in excess of said predetermined number of
characters as an image of the following line, and a new
line-off format for omitting said image of said excess of
characters of said each basic character string determined
to have characters in excess of said predetermined number
of characters, and

wherein said edit information character string-
forming means inserts said character overflow-notifying

character string, with reference to a predetermined
post-omission character count calculated by subtracting
the number of characters of a character omission-notifying
character string for notifying omission of at least one
character, from said predetermined number, instead of
referring to said predetermined number, in said each basic
character string determined to have characters in excess
of said predetermined number of characters, if said new
line-off format has been set.

108. An image forming device according to claim 107,
including elided character string-forming means for
forming at least one elided character string formed by
omitting said character overflow-notifying character
string and the following portion of each edit information
character string corresponding to said each basic character
string determined to have characters in excess of said
predetermined number of characters, if said new line-off
format has been set;

elided basic character string-forming means for
forming at least one elided basic character string
corresponding respectively to said at least one elided
character string by adding said character omission-
notifying character string to a portion of said each edit
information character string from which said character
overflow-notifying character string and the following
portion are omitted; and

elided image data-forming means for forming data of
an elided image by converting text data of said at least
one elided basic character string to image data thereof
based on a predetermined font and arranging said image data
of said at least one elided basic character string in a

predetermined edit image data-forming memory area within which image data of said predetermined number of characters can be arranged.

109. An image forming device according to claim 108, wherein said elided image is a print image for printing on a printing object.

110. An image forming device according to claim 109, wherein said printing object is a tape.

111. An image forming device according to claim 108, further including:

edit means for carrying out any of edit operations including character insertion, character deletion, character conversion, character size setting, and character decoration setting, on any of said at least one basic character string; and

wherein as a result of said any of said edit operations, if said predetermined number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined image-forming memory area has changed in number, the image forming device forms said elided image with reference to the resulting number of characters which can be arranged within said predetermined edit image data-forming memory area.

112. An image forming device according to claim 107 wherein said character omission-notifying character string includes at least one of characters "...", "..", ". ", and "~".

113. An image forming device according to claim 106, wherein said edit information image is a display image for displaying on a display screen.

114. An image forming device according to claim 106, wherein said edit information image data-forming means

forms said data of said edit information image includes converting text data of said each of said at least one edit information character string to image data thereof and arranging said image data of said each of said at least one edit information character string in said edit information image data-forming memory area such that an image of said each of said at least one edit information character string forms an image of one line of a character string.

115. An image forming device according to claim 106, wherein said character overflow-notifying character string includes a symbol easily discriminated from other characters.

116. An image forming device according to claim 106, wherein said edit information image data-forming means converts text data of only a required range of said at least one edit information character string to image data thereof and arranges said image data of said required range of said at least one edit information character string in said edit information image data-forming memory area.

117. An image forming device according to claim 106, wherein said text data of said at least one basic image character string is stored in a disc, the image forming device includes reading means for reading said text data of said at least one basic character string from said disc.

118. An image forming device according to claim 117, wherein said disc is a mini disc.

119. An image forming device according to claim 117, wherein said reading means includes disc playback means for reading said text data of said at least one basic character string from said disc.